

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 02217 241236Z
ACTION SS-25

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O P 241208Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2217

EXDIS

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: DENKTASH CONTINUES TO BE NEGATIVE, WITH OVERTONES
OF APOLOGY

REF: (A) STATE 192522, (B) NICOSIA 2112

1. I SAW DENKTASH MORNING AUG 23 TO BALANCE MY MEETING WITH
KYPRIANOU AUG 19. ALL HIS RECENT THEMES WERE THERE AND DO NOT
BEAR REPEATING. REDICTABLY HE HAS NOW ADDED RECOGNITION OF
MAKARIOS' SUCCESSOR AS THE MAJOR COMPLAINT. REFERRING
OBLIQUELY TO HIS RECENT PUBLIC THREATS TO CLOSE TFSC BORDER
TO DIPLOMATS OF COUNTRIES RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESSOR AS
PRESIDENT OF ALL CYPRUS, DENKTASH ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY US
COULD NOT BE REPRESENTED IN NORTHERN CYPRUS THROUGH ANKARA OR
SOMEONE SPECIALLY ATTACHED TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY THERE.
I SAID "OUT OF THE QUESTION".

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2. ALSO ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, DENKTASH SAID HE SEES NO
POSSIBILITY OF MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATION WITH THE GREEK SIDE
BETWEEN NOW AND REGULAR GREEK CYPRIOT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
IN FEBRUARY, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF HIS OBJECTIONS TO KYPRIANOU
BUT BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE WILL BE
INCAPACITATED ON SUBSTANCE BY INTERNAL POLITICAL MANEUVERING.

HE THINKS THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE CASE FOR A MONTH OR TWO AFTER ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. SPEAKING PRIVATELY, HE SAID HE FORSAW A REAL RISK OF SUCH THINGS COMING UNSTUCK POLITICALLY IN TURKEY NEXT SPRING. ONLY HALF JOKINGLY, HE REMARKED THAT THE COMBINATION OF THESE FACTORS SHOULD PROVIDE AN "EXCUSE" TO DEFER NEGOTIATION FOR A GOOD LONG TIME.

3. CONTRASTING WITH THESE NEGATIVES IN DENKTASH'S REMARKS, THERE WERE OVERTONES OF APOLOGY FOR HAVING BEEN SO UNREASONABLY ANTI-AMERICAN IN HIS RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, AT ONE POINT IN THE CONVERSATION HE SAIDN " I GUESS IT IS A MISTAKE TO ANNOY ALL THE AMERICANS AT THE SAME TIME." THIS IS SUPPORTED BY MESSAGES HE HAS RECENTLY MADE SURE WOULD REACH ME THROUGH THIRD PARTIES, RECOGNIZING HIS UNREASONABLE-NESS AND ATTRIBUTING THIS TO THE FRUSTRATIONS OF HIS POSITION IN THE FACE OF UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS WITHIN HIS OWN COMMUNITY AND PRESENT AND ANTICIPATED PRESSURES FROM TURKEY.

4. WHEN OUR CONVERSATION INEVITABLY GOT AROUND TO SECRETARY CLIFFORD'S AUG 9 PRESS CONFERENCE IN NICOSIA, I DELIVERED THE MESSAGE N PARA THREE OF REF A TO THE EFFECT THAT THE US SEEKS AND WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK AN EQUITABLE CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, ONE IN WHICH THE SECURITY, ECONOMIC, AND OTHER INTERESTS OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS ARE FULLY PROTECTED. TO ACCUSE US OF COLLUSION WITH THE GREEK CYPRIOTS IS UNTRUE AND UNHELPFUL. IN REGARD TO HIS PUBLIC CHARGE AFTER CLIFFORD'S PRESS CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFERENCE, I REMINDED DENKTASH THAT HE HAD BEEN FULLY INFORMED OF US PARALLEL UNDERSTANDINGS WITH THE PARTIES PRIOR TO VIENNA. JUST TO MAKE SURE, I BRIEFLY RECAPITULATED THOSE UNDERSTANDINGS. DENKTASH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IF THIS WAS THE PACKAGE, HE HAD BEEN INFORMED AND HAD PERHAPS BEEN WRONG IN READING INTO CLIFFORD'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS REFLECTION OF A TRANSCENDING SECRET UNDERSTANDING WITH MAKARIOS.

5. AT THE CONCLUSION OF OUR CONVERSATION, DENKTASH SPOKE APPROVINGLY OF THE STUDY CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS TO BE HELD IN THE LATE SEPTEMBER IN ROME UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE CENTER FOR MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES, AT WHICH THERE WILL BE UNOFFICIAL TURKISH CYPRIOT REPRESENTATION. HE LOOK ON THIS ESSENTIALLY AS AN ACADEMIC EXERCISE, BUT ONE WHICH MIGHT PRODUCE USEFUL IDEAS THHAT COULD BE PICKED UP BY THE PARTIES IN LATER NEGOTIATION. (ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE NOW APPEAR TO BE FINAL AND WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE MESSAGE.) CRAWFORD

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